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NECC Professor Peter Flynn rescues sailors from a capsized boat.



10 Arts

Salem State students visit NECC to perform 'Taming of the Shrew'

NECC Observer

Northern Essex
Community College

The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill & Lawrence, Mass.



Dustin Luca photo

A table of donated items, all submitted by NECC Student Valerie Samuels, is set to be delivered to the Salvation Army, along with other items donated in a school-wide effort to assist those impacted by the damage from Hurricane Katrina.

College works to help victims of Katrina

NECC working with Salvation Army and Sloan Consortium

BY JESSICA DEMARCO
News Editor

In the past weeks following Hurricane Katrina NECC faculty, staff and students, in collaboration with The Salvation Army and The Sloan

Consortium, are contributing to the aid of victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Sloan Consortium, an online based program that partners with colleges to help improve their online courses, has decided to take part in the schooling of some college students who were victims of Hurricane Katrina. Sloan developed a list of classes, ranging from developmental to graduate level courses, that were sent to Northern Essex.

"We received the email on a

Friday, and picked classes that we knew that we could teach at our school, found the teachers, and had to send them a response email that Monday," said Beth Wilcoxson, Assistant Dean of Humanities & Social Sciences. Wilcoxson also had to provide information on how to register, book costs, and any other details that students enrolled in a class through Sloan would need.

See Donations page 5

Fall enrollment increases in '05

College celebrates after witnessing years of decline

BY DUSTIN LUCA
Editor

After watching enrollment numbers decline for the past few years, officials are celebrating after seeing the first increase in overall enrollment in three years.

According to Mary Ellen Ashley, the total headcount at Northern Essex Community College saw a 2.7 percent increase for the fall 2005 semester, and a more celebrated increase of 2.8 percent in the school's full-time equivalent ratio, or FTE, a ratio that calculates the number of full-time students.

"I'm very thrilled about it, because it went up significantly," said President David Hartleb. "It's tough because we have a demograph-

ic population that is declining."

Hartleb said that over time, the number of Merrimac valley residents within the age group of 18 to 34 is dropping at a rate of 20 percent every decade, and that the ability to increase enrollment as a critical age demographic drops is an outstanding achievement.

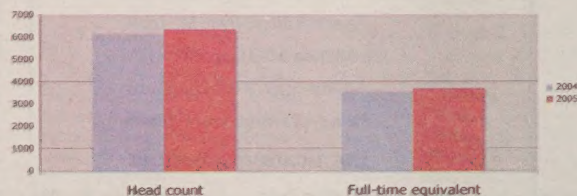
Ashley attributes the increase in enrollment and FTE to an increased pressure on advertising and a higher concentration on students and that their needs are being met on a daily basis.

According to Ashley, the overall headcount at Northern Essex for the Fall 2005 semester is 6,362 students, an increase of 168 students when compared to the Fall 2004 total of 6,194 students.

"Our goal for the semester was 6,300 students. Clearly, we exceeded our goal," said Ashley, adding that the college is hoping to overcome a Fall 2006 goal of 6,500 students.

See Enrollment page 6

Enrollment comparison



Dustin Luca graphic

Teams prepare for Fall sports season to begin

Volleyball, cross-country gear up for competition

BY RYAN MCASKILL
Sports Editor

Listen up, NECC. The fall sports season is in full swing. The NECC Knights feature two highly competitive programs: women's volleyball and men's and women's cross-country, and the upstart soccer club.

The volleyball team is looking to rebound from a year that saw lack of players hurt the team. This season six incoming players have been added with the two returning players

from last season to form a solid club with high expectations.

The cross-country program is coming off a year that saw four male runners run in the NJCAA National Championship meet. With one of those four returning and an influx of new runners with high school experience, as well as a stronger women's turn out then usual. The stage is set for a competitive season.

As with all positives there are some negatives. The main problem facing all three programs is lack of participation. The two programs that have been affected by this the most in the past have been the volleyball and cross-country teams. Each has struggled through seasons where they had less than five players on the team, some years as low as one person.

The athletic department has been campaigning to increase enrollment in sports. Cross-country head coach Dawn Caputo does heavy recruiting.

"I recruit from everywhere. Cape Ann League, Merrimac Valley Conference, Southern New Hampshire High Schools, even from the Boston area," said Caputo.

Many students are unaware of the opportunities in the Sports and Fitness Center and in the Athletic Department. Anyone interested in NECC sports should be encouraged to take a trip over to Athletic Director Sue MacAvoy's office, room D-119.

Each team still has openings for anyone looking to get involved.

See Fall Season page 14



Ryan McAskill photo

From left, Amanda Jankowski, Carol Delaney and Alicia Noury are among the incoming players looking to have an impact on Knights volleyball this year.

Opinion

Is Work to Rule returning this year?

Editorial

School is in full swing, and after a long vacation off, Work to Rule is getting ready to start back up as well. Or is it?

Word has it that community colleges across Massachusetts are starting to call off professor-run striking efforts after finally receiving a pay raise long overdue, but at Northern Essex, two prominent sides are developing within the union: Should we call it off, or should we push for more?

Originally, the concept behind Work to Rule was to limit a student's access to professors by making the professors work the bare minimum declared on their contract. Really, the only thing that this accomplished was making it so if a student needed help outside of the classroom, that help was much harder to find, if it could be found at all.

Work to Rule has left a lot of students in the dark, has put the educational integrity of Northern Essex in danger and now has put professors against professors as they begin to debate whether Work to Rule should live on this semester. When you look at the end result of what Work to Rule has done to the college community, it makes you wonder... was it worth it?

The answer is no. If anything at the college takes priority over everything else, it's the students and their educational well-being, and Work to Rule has done exactly the opposite since the day it was created.

This is our education. We are paying for this. Why is it that, week after week, we are not allowed to have the education that we are paying for?

The time has come that we, the students, need to reclaim the pedestal we once had in the minds of the college and its professors.



KRT photo

NECC Observer

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2004-2005 Gold Medalist

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#3	Oct. 5	Sept. 28
#4	Oct. 19	Oct. 12
#5	Oct. 26	Oct. 19
#6	Nov. 9	Nov. 2
#7	Nov. 23	Nov. 16
#8	Dec. 7	Nov. 30

How to submit a letter to the Observer

The observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurr building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include "Letter to Editor" in the subject line or risk not being received by the observer email system.

We prefer submissions via email:
observer@necc.mass.edu

But, if you wish to submit a letter via paper:

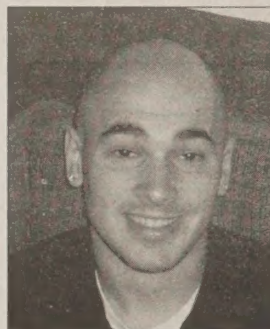
Letter to Editor, NECC Observer, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, MA 01830

While we attempt to publish all letters, we reserve the right to edit or reject those received.

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Roaming Reporter

How well do you feel the Hurricane Katrina relief is being handled?



Bob Cooper, *Liberal Arts*

"Could be better. It wasn't just one person's mistake. The government wasn't prepared to deal with it."



Joey O'Donnell, *Theater*

"If more people got involved, it would have been better. Our country needs to work together as a whole."



Karen Purple, *Business Mgmt.*

"Relief has been long overdue. People are just now realizing the enormity of the situation. The media has been getting it out there, but we need to give more support."

Photos/Interviews by Stacie Peters



Jason Hashem, *Business Mgmt.*

"Not well. With time, people are responding better, but at first, I don't think their efforts were that strong."



Miranda Runge, *Education*

"The aftermath was handled very well, but precautionary measures were not dealt with the way they should have. The government should have helped people evacuate."



Samantha Canton, *Criminal Just.*

"Currently, not as well. At work, we have a fund, but people are sick of donating. They're sick of the bucks. I think we need to find a new way to raise money, because people think it's getting old."

Opinions

Meet the new Opinions Editor!

Hello world. My name is Stacie Peters, and I'm your newest Opinions editor for the Observer.

I'm 21, and right now I'm a Liberal Arts major because for some bizarre reason, NECC doesn't offer a major in English. I'm planning on transferring to a four-year college in the fall that does.

I'm an avid reader of almost all genres. I like fantasy, popular fiction, classics, poetry, horror... pretty much anything. My favorite best-selling author is Neil Gaiman, but my favorite classic writers would be Oscar Wilde and Nathaniel Hawthorne. I write a lot myself, and you may have seen some of my stuff in Parnassus, the school literary magazine.

I'm a pretty liberal person and

very anti-Bush, much to my father's disdain. I also have a sarcastic sense of humor that people don't always understand. Luckily, I'm also a very reasonable and open-minded person who will listen to all sides of an argument. So I welcome letters and your input, because the Opinions pages would not be very interesting without differing viewpoints.

I hope to cover the many differing opinions over issues that concern the population of Northern Essex Community College, and I look forward to working for the paper and the students of this college. The irony behind all of this of course is that I was voted "Most Apathetic" in high school.

Oh, if they could see me now.



NECC isn't 'nursing school'

Aaron Brown and
CNN deserve to pay
for this disgrace

By DUSTIN LUCA
Editor



When you work for a newspaper, a lot of what you focus on, more specifically when writing articles, is primarily based on a single crucial element: accuracy.

If you aren't completely accurate in literally every detail, then you might as well not write the story.

And this applies to all forms of Journalism, even on TV. A great deal of pressure and research goes into produced segments before being run on television (unless you work for Dan Rather, of course), or else the segments just don't make it on the air.

However, I did notice one small inaccuracy on a recently televised special that appeared on Sept. 11 on CNN known as "September 11 Twists of Fate". In the episode, Aaron Brown and his posse of unnamed journalists told the stories of a handful of people who benefited from thousands of deaths, including the story of local resident and NECC graduate Elise O'Keane.

According to Aaron Brown, O'Keane graduated from what he described as "nursing school". And

after CNN came on campus and shot a ton of footage of O'Keane walking around and staring at trees and stuff, the only press NECC received in the episode was in the form of a picture taken from graduation—that, and being called a "nursing school".

It is almost like CNN was ashamed to use the term "Community College" when describing O'Keane's career change, something she accomplished at NECC after enrolling in the nursing program.

Anyway, after I heard Aaron Brown disgrace this beautiful college in the manner that he did, I cried. I cried for something north of 15 hours, which was immediately followed by a three day long emotionally induced coma. Once I snapped out of my uninterrupted and very relaxing nap (in which I missed a lot of great Aaron Brown news segments), it took a couple dump trucks full of Cookies and Cream ice cream to calm me down.

I just do not understand how someone who claims to be a "television anchor" or, better yet, a "civilized human being" can get off calling NECC a nursing school! This school is much more than a nursing school. It's more like a big place with a lot of rooms where you learn a variety of things, like how to bend your body creatively while writing poetry, while paying ridiculous amounts of hard-earned money to support it.

To further beat my point directly into the ground, I have decided to produce a list of things that better describe NECC than a simple-minded ignorant phrase like "nursing school".

"Necco"
100 Elliot Street
The Home of the Knights
The Home of the Observer
Some Community College
The Place You Go to Before a University
7 Buildings and a Few Extra Ones Elsewhere
Tuition Increases 'R' Us
Romney Protest Headquarters
The Moon
Milquetoast
Jitters

CNN officials would lead you to believe that NECC actually stands for "Nursing Education College Center", or something just as ridiculous. As a college community, we cannot allow CNN, or Aaron Brown in particular, to get away with this treachery.

I encourage all of you, for the sake of not only NECC but also science in general, to email Aaron Brown (aaronbrown@cnn.com) and tell him, as vulgarly as humanly possible, how badly his choice of words has impacted our beloved college community.

If you do not have access to a computer, then it will be just as cool to send psychotic hate mail to any CNN building in the continental United States. And if you can't manage to do that, well, that's too bad. I guess you're not a team player.

The nationally known integrity of this college deserves to be protected, especially from moronic nicknames given to it by fascist media conglomerates.

LETTERS

Food services costs too much

Dear Editor,

Being the hard-working student that I am and the rest of us are, I usually find myself in dire need of some sort of nourishment during the day. So I usually head to one of the many places on campus to pick up a snack or a small meal. But I have noticed that the prices on some of the items are a little steep. For example, a fruit cup is \$3.00. In

my opinion, that's pretty expensive. By the end of the day I usually find that my monetary resources have been exhausted, and I usually can't see how I spent so much on so little. Maybe it's just me, but I think there needs to be a lowering of the prices in order to better accommodate a student's budget.

Dylan Wilson
Lawrence, MA

Media obsessed with Katrina's destructive nature

Dear Editor,

I am deeply disgraced by the media coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Everything you see on every news station is how damaging this disastrous storm was and how the media is playing the blame game on President Bush. What about FEMA? It has been said that they have known about a terrible disaster like this for years and didn't bother storing water and food supplies. Instead of playing the "blame game" the real coverage needs to shine on the heroic people all over the United States.

All these amazing people are taking complete strangers into their homes and providing them the essentials for living. All over the United States, people have pitched in some helpful supplies for all the Evacuees of Hurricane Katrina. Recognizing all the glorious states like Massachusetts and Texas, who flew in some of the evacuees into their shelters, providing more than just food and water. Schools are

also being very remarkable by cramming in as many children as they can, so they can continue with a sense of normality, and still receive an education. Celebrities like the Red Sox are giving generous donations and raising charities to go to the evacuees as well as the city. Now instead of embracing just money, charities are now accepting anything people are willing to give.

Again I think for once people need to stop finding something to argue about and start realizing that there are others right now with absolutely nothing. In this disheartening tragedy, we all need to stick together and help each other out. This is America, we stick together, whether it's a terrorist attack or a disastrous storm. So again, there needs to be a big thanks to everyone who played a part in contributing to the aiding of all the evacuees of Hurricane Katrina.

Tiffany Courtney
Haverhill, MA

Parking space is insufficient

Dear Editor,

This is my second year attending Northern Essex. I've noticed that in my two years here, student parking has steadily become more of a problem. There are not enough spaces for everyone. Knowing each year there are more and more students, nothing has been done to improve parking. No new parking lots. It's crazy that students are parking on the grass or wherever there is a space. I arrive to school at

8:00 A.M. Mon., Wed., and Fri., and I've been noticing that even then, there are not that many spaces. I find myself on some days arriving to school, and following people to their cars just to get a space. Hopefully in the future, the school will make room for a new bigger parking lot, until then I will continue to search for a space.

Vanessa Toomey
Salisbury, MA

Volunteer work is rewarding

Dear Editor,

This is a letter for all of those who have ever contemplated volunteer work. I've never been too concerned about volunteer work until this year. Being in college and working my way towards my RN degree is not only hard book work, but also requires a certain amount of volunteer work. I never realized how important volunteer work is to hospitals, churches, schools, and nursing homes. After an interview with Holy Family Hospital, I felt

compelled and eager to help in any department that needed me.

I feel as though volunteer work is and will be self-gratifying, to myself and others. I'm writing this letter to encourage anyone who has ever thought about it. I challenge you to just try it for one week and see how you feel. I guarantee you will go back and contribute one more time.

April Janackas
Haverhill, MA

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Opinion

Excuse me, but could you please remove your child from the room?

Sometimes children don't always belong in the classroom

BY STACIE PETERS
Opinions Editor



It's 10 A.M., it's College Algebra, it's the third test of the semester, and some woman's kid is crying in the second row.

Before I go any further, let me assure you - this is a true story. This is my story, about something that really happened a few semesters ago.

A woman, who had arrived late to class, entered the room mid-test, pushing a large stroller in front of her. She took a test packet, sat down, and about five minutes later, it became clear that the child in the stroller was not asleep. It started making noise by giggling. Then it began letting out high-pitched squeals. Finally, it started to cry.

What's worse is that the mother did not leave the room to try and calm her child. Instead, she continued taking her test, quietly shushing the child with her mouth, until she had managed to lull the kid back into

random squealing.

While this was going on, students kept glancing up at the teacher, casting looks at her and hoping she would say something. And so the teacher was put in an awkward situation: her students are frustrated, they want her to act, but the responsibility of disciplining a disruptive child ultimately lies with the parent. And what, exactly, do you say to the parent? *Sorry ma'am, you can stay and take the test, but the baby's gotta go.*

I've noticed a strange trend in most of my classes - every semester, an older student brings their child to class with them, at least once. Because this is extremely distracting in most cases, I decided to look into NECC's policy on using the science lab as a nursery.

And guess what: there isn't one. According to Paul Bevilacqua, Vice

President of Academic Affairs, unless it's written in the Student Code of Conduct, or if the teacher puts a statement about it in their course syllabus, there is no written policy against bringing your children to class, no matter how disturbing they may be.

"It's something that's subject to criticism," Bevilacqua says, in regards to children in the classroom. "I know that students may often find it more disruptive than

the teachers do."

Distracting, disruptive - can we add disgusting to the list? I remember during my first semester, a woman brought her young daughter in, who had to leave elementary school because she "wasn't feeling good". While a couple of other students fawned over the pitiful child, I couldn't help but wonder how many people were going to be sick the next class. Well, at least she was well-behaved. But you're going to be well-behaved if you're too miserable to lift your head off the desk.

And what makes people think

cancel last minute. But even so, there are other options available.

You may have looked out the window of your classroom one morning, only to see a line of children walking outside with early childhood education majors. Believe it or not, NECC has its very own daycare and kindergarten center on campus, called the Little Sprouts Child Enrichment Center. They can take care of kids from four weeks old up to age seven, and are an accredited institution. The rates and hours for care necessary are flexible, and payment is determined on a needs to needs basis. The only

drawback to this is that you cannot just drop your kid off on a day you can't find a sitter, which means some planning ahead is required. However, if you anticipate your

child will be without care on multiple accounts, consider enrolling them either at Little Sprouts, or another private institution.

If you can't afford or don't want your child to attend day care, there's something else you can try: talking to your professor. Students often overlook how a simple discussion can fix a situation. Think of it this way: it is much easier for the teacher to reschedule a test for the woman who

could not find someone to watch her baby, than it is for her to appease all the angry students who want to re-test because a baby was crying.

If all else fails, and this is something you need to do, then please, be courteous about it. Don't ever bring a sick child to class. Bring toys to keep them entertained in class, but only choose "quiet" objects - like crayons and a coloring book instead of Hot Wheels that are inevitably going to be thrust off the desk and onto the floor repeatedly. Let them bring their Game Boy, but keep the sound off. And if your baby ever, ever starts crying in class, please remove them from the room until they've calmed down.

Not every child is a pain. I've met some adorable children who understand the importance of college and made it through class without making one disruptive remark. If more children behaved like this in a college classroom, I would not have the complaints that I do.

So be considerate of your fellow students. We are all here to learn, and no student should be hindering another's progress. An annoying child will be regarded as a brat, and the parent who does not take control of the situation as a bad parent. No parent wants their child looked down upon, and no child wants anyone to disrespect their parents.

So the next time you find yourself childcare-less before class, weigh your options carefully. The easiest choice isn't always the best one.

“It's something I know that's subject to criticism... students may often find it more disruptive than the teachers do.”
-Paul Bevilacqua

that kids even want to come to school with their parents? The shortest class period offered at NECC is 50 minutes in length. A child can barely handle sitting still for that amount of time, so what was a woman who brought her daughter to our three-and-a-half hour long night class thinking?

Both teachers and students alike try to be understanding. Things come up, school may be released early, or the baby-sitter you've lined up had to

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CAMPUS BRIEFS

Murder mystery to benefit NECC fund

Want to donate to the Northern Essex Community College Fund and have fun doing it? Then buy your tickets now for the Murder Mystery Dinner and Auction on Friday, Sept. 23 at 6:30 p.m. at DiBurro's in Ward Hill.

Tickets are \$65 per person. This signature event is presented by the NECC Foundation, Inc., the Women of NECC, and the NECC Alumni Advisory Board. The night will include both live and silent auctions, dinner, a murder mystery show hosted by Boston's Murder Mystery Weekend Company as well as a host of prizes.

All proceeds from the event will benefit the NECC Fund.

Help with choosing programs and careers available

Students still undecided about which career path, direction or degree program to take can attend workshops hosted by the Career Planning and Career Development Centers to help put them on a guiding track.

For those in search of help choosing what degree program to enroll under, seminars are available at the following times:

Tues., Sept. 20, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 19, 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Fri., Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

For those in need of help choosing a career or a direction in life, seminars are available at the following times:

Thurs., Sept. 15, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 12, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Tues., Nov. 15, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration for either event is required in order to attend. For more information and to register, call (978) 556-3722.

Women's Network hosts self esteem seminars

Self esteem is an issue with which many women struggle. In this series of workshops, learn about the foundations of self esteem and practice methods to increase, improve and enhance self esteem.

Part I - Explore issues and learn strategies to increase self esteem on Thursdays: Sept. 29, Oct. 6, 13 and 20 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in C-300.

Part II - A continuation to reinforce learnings and practice strategies on Thursdays: Oct. 27, Nov. 3, 10, and 17 from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. in C-300.

For more information, call (978) 556-3722.

Does your campus organization or office have something to announce in Campus Briefs? Please email information to observer@necc.mass.edu Be sure to include "campus news brief" in the subject line.

Plans to fill open space under way

Walk-in computer lab and conference areas could be relocated

By DUSTIN LUCA
Editor

With the completion of the Student Center and the relocation of almost all enrollment-related facilities to the Student Center, college officials are now focusing on filling the "backfill space" now vacant all over campus.

"When we moved everybody that we did move into the Tech Center and Behrakis and out to 1600 Ausgood, there were actually a great many spaces that became empty," said President David Hartleb. "We're trying to consolidate things, make them more rational, move people where they can be accessed in a better way. The intention was not to say that somebody needs more space. It was to better serve the campus."

According to Hartleb, planning for the use of backfill space was started back in the winter, as the construction for the Technology Center and The Ourania Behrakis Student Center completed and college officials could get a better understanding on what space was available in the new buildings.

"What we are doing with the backfill space is improving the quality of the facility," said Paul Bevilacqua, vice president of acad-

emic affairs at Northern Essex.

According to Bevilacqua, changes the campus can expect may include the relocation of the walk-in computer lab, currently located on the first floor of the A building, and the addition of Smart Classrooms throughout the Haverhill campus.

"We're repurposing the space to use it as effectively as we can," said Bevilacqua. "We've involved faculty into the planning all the way."

Specific programs at NECC could be impacted by the reorganization of the backfill space. For example, changes could be made to the Art program that may include additional space and access to necessary materials, like water and storage areas.

Bevilacqua also said that conference areas located in the A building could possibly be relocated to the Technology Center, and the newly opened space in the A building could be used as study areas working in conjunction with the rest of the Bentley Library.

Other changes will also occur, including the relocation of the Academic Affairs offices to its original home in the Spurk building.

"A few of these moves have already happened, but most of them are ahead of us," said Hartleb. "It's really going to take us most of this academic year to get this done because, in most instances, we want to clear out the old space... paint the walls, clean up the floors,

Observer wins Gold Medalist award

Staff photo

The staff of the NECC Observer displays its most recent award, a "Gold Medalist" certificate from the Columbia Scholastic Press Association of Columbia University. The Observer placed in the Gold Medalist category based on a critique of newspapers published in the 2004-2005 academic year. Pictured from left to right: Sports Editor Ryan McAskill, Faculty Adviser Amy Callahan, Editor Dustin Luca (pictured front), News Editor Jessica DeMarco, Arts and Entertainment Editor Christa Larson and Opinions Editor Stacie Peters.

and then move stuff in."

According to Hartleb, the physical reorganization of facilities being relocated by plans based on backfill space is being run by Clifton Clarke, superintendent of Buildings and Grounds at NECC.

"Space is a commodity that people fight over," said Bevilacqua,

adding that additional areas will be designated specifically for faculty use. "Space goes to areas that can best use it for institutional goals, not to those who can speak the loudest and longest.

"If it doesn't improve the institutional quality of this school, it doesn't happen."

NECC works to help Katrina victims

Continued from Page 1

The classes that Wilcoxson proposed were U.S. History as instructed by Steve Russell, Introduction to Philosophy as instructed by Jim Gustafson, Introduction to Sociology as instructed by Joseph Rizzo, and Basic Algebra 2 as instructed by Dan Svenconis, all teachers volunteering to do so. According to Wilcoxson, originally they had received a letter saying that they would not need the said classes, but as of Mon., Sept. 19, they have decided to take the classes into their program.

If needed, Northern Essex has the option of occupying up to 50% of each class being offered to contribute.

"I think that it will be a great opportunity for the students who already attend NECC to be able to interact with the victims of Hurricane Katrina. They will learn something," said Wilcoxson, also adding, "Especially for the students enrolled in Sociology or Philosophy, even History, students have a chance to really talk about life experiences."

NECC faculty and staff are also considering challenging students to match the total donations made by the staff, and although that is has yet to be finalized, faculty and students are still actively making contributions.

Around campus, students may have recently noticed drop boxes. According to CJ Crivaro, behavioral science professor at NECC, the boxes are for hurricane relief aid. After getting through to the Salvation Army, Crivaro has organized drop boxes where the NECC community is

encouraged to donate toiletries of any kind. These boxes will be out through the end of the month, and at the beginning of October, the Salvation Army will pick them up and take them to the Otis Air Force Base.

There are four drop boxes available on the Haverhill campus: At the Circulation desk in the library, outside of the Student Activities office, on the 3rd floor of the Spurk Building outside of room C314-X, and at the Staff Development center in room B-136.

"The response has been phenomenal. I've honestly been overwhelmed. People have been extremely generous. People really felt like they needed to contribute," said Crivaro.

Clubs on campus are also donating to the relief of Hurricane Katrina. The Gay-Straight Alliance will be donating the money from their used book sales, and the Hospitality Club will be holding a bake sale on Sept. 21 from 9 p.m. to 1 p.m. in the Spurk Building lobby. All proceeds will also go to Relief efforts.

After hearing about the efforts the school was planning to make, Valerie Samuels, a student at NECC, decided that she wanted to do her part.

"Linda Desjardins had mentioned that in the paper there had been something about donating, and I had been looking for a place to bring the goods I wanted to give. I really don't see it as donating, I just see it as doing my part," said Samuels in a phone interview.

"It's just very giving of her," says Desjardins, Samuels Public Speaking professor. "She truly exemplified a giving spirit to jump right into the col-

lege community. It's just very admirable."

"I think a lot of people feel like what they can do isn't significant, but

its like a snowflake. And after a day of snowflakes, you need a plow," said Samuels. "That's just my theory on this."

Donation Information

Drop Boxes Located:

Library, Circulation Desk

Student Activities Office

Spurk Building, 3rd floor outside C 314-X

Staff Development: B-136

Donations for the drop boxes will be accepted through September.

Any toiletries for men, women, babies disposables preferred.

Hospitality Club Bakesale: September 21, 2005, Spurk Building, 9:00- 1:00

More information on faculty-student donations to come

News

National News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Virginia citizens arrested with connections to 'Virginia Jihad Network'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A Maryland man was charged with conspiracy to help a terrorist organization, part of an investigation of the "Virginia jihad network" that has so far resulted in ten convictions, U.S. law enforcement officials said Friday.

Ali Asad Chandia of College Park, Md., was a personal assistant to Ali al-Timimi, whom authorities called the spiritual leader of the Virginia jihad network, according to a four-count indictment unsealed Friday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va. The indictment charges Chandia, a Pakistani, with conspiring to provide material support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba organization, which the United States designated a terrorist organization in 2001.

Also charged is Mohammed Ajmal Khan of Coventry, England, who prosecutors say is a senior official in Lashkar-e-Taiba, an Islamic rebel group fighting for independence in the India-controlled portion of Kashmir. Khan already is in custody in England on terrorism charges.

Bush shapes second term around Hurricane Relief

WASHINGTON (AP)—Hurricane Katrina swamped President George W. Bush's second-term domestic agenda, reordering his priorities and changing the political landscape.

His open-ended commitment to rebuild New Orleans and the Gulf Coast has become his No. 1 domestic imperative.

Swept away was Bush's pledge to cut the budget deficit in half. His centerpiece proposal to restructure Social Security—in trouble even before the storm—probably is a casualty, too.

Also suddenly endangered are his proposals to make permanent certain tax cuts, repeal the estate tax, overhaul immigration law and rewrite tax laws.

"Congress' fall legislative agenda has been significantly modified," Republican Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist said last week as the long-term costs of the hurricane grew clearer.

Conservatives are not challenging Bush's commitment to federal relief and reconstruction spending that could rise to over \$200 billion (euro163 billion). But they are clamoring for offsetting spending cuts in other areas.

New Tutoring Center offers free studying assistance

Assistance available in any college level course

By JESSICA DEMARCO
News Editor

Room C-210, once just a normal classroom, has now been transformed into a tutoring facility for students who take any college level course at Northern Essex Community College.

"I proposed it (the Tutor Center) as a Process Management project," said Angela Guarino, assistant dean of Assessment and Academic Administrator of the Tutor Center.

Early last year, the school put together a Process Management Team, which began to conduct surveys from not only students but faculty as well. The surveys asked questions regarding what the students and faculty thought about the amount of resources available for students who need help in their college level classes.

According to Guarino, the data collected was similar to the results they had expected, noting that the main subjects in need of tutors were History, Math, and Advanced Science. The most help was needed in writing research papers for classes other than English Comp 1 or 2.

After they had conducted the surveys a second level of inquiries was done by performing intensive interviews with all department chairs and program coordinators.

"Our main objective was to go beyond what the school was already offering to the students," said Guarino. Adding that, for years before this tutor center was developed the school had already offered successful labs for students enrolled in developmental classes.

According to Guarino, these labs never had the ability to serve a larger student base because of the lack of resources.

However, some departments already have a tutoring system set up. The math and science departments were academically supporting their students by having drop in tutor hours available. Not wanting to take over the whole concept of tutoring the Tutor Center decided to take a roll in the effort these depart-

ments have made by scheduling tutor hours for students in collaboration.

Suzanne Van Wert, chair person of the English Department, worked with Process Management to develop a college writing component.

"As a result if these collaborative efforts, we now provide training for faculty and peer tutoring for college level writing," said Van Wert. "We needed a lab specifically for that, and Suzanne played a critical roll on making this happen with her tireless efforts."

Departments predominately located on the Lawrence campus are not forgotten, for the health programs and criminal justice programs also have plans in the near future to have tutoring readily available on campus.

"One of the central objectives of Process Management was also to meet the specific needs of the Lawrence campuses, since the type of learning services differ from campus to campus," said Guarino, also stating that they were not provided to space or funding that allowed for a staff position on the Lawrence campus at the time, however the need is there and we will do everything we can to address it."

Jean Lendall, Academic Resource and Tutor Center Coordinator, has also been working with the "Title 5" instructors, located on the Lawrence campus, to develop a tutoring program. "Title

5" is a Grant designated for schools who support students with a hispanic background.

"We are far from where we need to be with resources and funding," said Guarino in regards to the Tutor Center. Part of the funding for this center came directly from grants, and the rest was taken from school budget.

The Tutoring Center also has plans to expand hours for evening students to allow for tutoring between the hours of 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. in the future.

"Response was phenomenal, students always are looking for help but the results were much more than we ever expected.. with college wide support from President Hartleb, moving facilities, and faculty, who worked so closely with us, this has really been a college wide effort that it was able to open this fall," said Guarino.

Hours for the Tutor Center, are 8 p.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, and the writing help is available 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday.

"Students should always feel free to stop in, we are here for them," said Landell.

"We are most definitely in our first stage, we will identify gaps and fill them, the center will continue to evolve and shape itself to the dynamic needs for faculty and students," states Guarino.



[Jessica DeMarco] photo

New Tutor Center Room C-210

NECC sees enrollment spike

Continued from Page 1

Full time equivalent, seen at 3,604 in the Fall 2004 semester, jumped by 103, bringing the total to 3,707 for the Fall 2005 semester.

"Lately, we've been targeting flat goals," said Ashley. "It's most important to focus on student retention."

Hartleb said that in the past, multiple factors in the area caused a worrisome drop in NECC's enrollment. Such factors included the collapse of Lucent Technologies, the end of the technological boom and the declining demographic that continuously threatens the college.

According to Ashley, the college is expecting a regular drop in enrollment for the Spring 2006 semester, due to the fact that many time-related elements prevent some

financial aid."

Once the period of celebration is over, NECC officials will begin focusing on hitting the 6,500 mark a year from now.

“
If students get good service, we think they will come.

-David Hartleb, President

students from returning to NECC after the fall semester.

"Spring is not like a continuation of the fall," said Ashley. "Some (students) come too late, and they end up having to fight for

great service to students, help students find Financial Aid... just, the service," said Hartleb. "If students get good service, we think they'll come."

World News



Compiled by the Observer staff
from AP wire reports

Pope John Paul II last words revealed through the Vatican

VATICAN CITY (AP)—Struggling to breathe, Pope John Paul II mumbled his final words weakly in Polish: "Let me go to the house of the Father." Six hours later, the comatose pontiff died, the Vatican says.

The account of John Paul's final hours appears in a meticulously detailed official report on his last weeks just released by the Vatican in what might be an effort to ward off any doubts about how forthcoming it has been about his illness and April 2 death.

There was much speculation in past decades over how some pontiffs died and what caused their end.

While no one has publicly suggested anything amiss about John Paul II's final hours, the Vatican said nothing for years when it was apparent to observers that the globe-trotting, widely beloved pontiff was suffering the symptoms of Parkinson's disease.

Middle Eastern natives still feel insecure 4 years after September 11

CAIRO, Egypt (AP)—Four years have passed, yet the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States continue to reverberate across the Middle East. Even after the four-year anniversary, talk shows, newspapers, casual conversation and polls all remain focused on what the lingering impact has been.

In the eyes of most, the attacks' legacy for the Middle East has been greater instability, fear and violence: the ceaseless bloodshed in Iraq, terror attacks in Saudi Arabia and Egypt, worries over the growing power of Islamic hard-liners and uncertainty whether the United States' post-9/11 push for reform will bring democracy or just more turmoil.

Most seem pessimistic. An on-air poll on the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya television network—centered around the fourth anniversary of the attacks—asked whether "after four years of war on terrorism, has the world become more safe?" Seventy-five percent of those who called or e-mailed the show said no.

Features

Women encouraged to practice defense against date rape

Date rape is quickly becoming a growing problem in America

By BILL GLAUBER

Knight Ridder Newspapers (KRT)

CHICAGO—When it comes to staying safe in a bar, Alyssa Hurt follows her mother's advice.

Stick with friends. Don't take a drink from a stranger. And keep your eyes on your glass.

"My mom always told me to be careful when you're out," Hurt said as she sipped a Long Island iced tea and celebrated her 23rd birthday with friends at a Chicago bar recently.

Hurt is part of a generation of young female drinkers who have absorbed the methods of protecting themselves and their friends during a night on the town.

A decade after so-called date-rape drugs first made headlines and the threat of spiked drinks swept conversations in bars and clubs across the country, the ways of young women drinking in America have changed.

A whole generation has been taught to drink defensively, to watch their glasses like they would watch their purses.

From on-campus seminars to e-mails, the word has long gone out to women to be on guard while in a bar or club.

An industry has even grown up around the problem of drug-facilitated rape, with manufacturers bringing to market test cards, coasters and swizzle sticks to detect if a drink has been spiked. Experts on the drugs remain skeptical about the accuracy of the cards and claim they may only offer a false sense of security.

As students head to college campuses, some for the first time, another generation on the cusp of legal drinking will be schooled in the strategies of how to have fun and stay safe.

A woman asking a friend to keep an eye on her drink, or even taking the drink to the restroom, has become part of an evening out. Like hiding car keys in her fist to use as a weapon and learning to walk like she

owns a lonely street, keeping watch on a gin and tonic has been added to a grim but necessary routine.

In the mid to late 1990s fear about date-rape drugs reached a fever pitch in America's clubland. But media attention combined with personal vigilance are credited with helping to blunt the once-terrifying trend.

"People have been conditioned to be safe in many different ways, from who you go out with at the beginning of the night to how you get home at the end of the night," said Chicago nightclub owner, Billy Dec.

But that doesn't mean the threat has gone away. So-called date-rape drugs are still out there, still used to disorient the unsuspecting. The most well-known of the drugs is Gamma Hydroxy-Butyrate (GHB), sometimes known by the street names of Liquid E, Liquid X or Woman's Viagra. Other drugs that have been used in sexual assault are Rohypnol and Ketamine.

"It's still a big issue and law enforcement and hospitals are way behind," said Trinka Porrata, a retired Los Angeles police officer who heads Project GHB, a group that tries to raise awareness about drugs.

In Las Vegas, use of date-rape drugs was reported in around 100 cases last year, according to Sgt. Blake Quakenbush, a narcotics officer.

"That's probably just scratching the surface," he said. "In Las Vegas, it's a big problem. An epidemic. You have to worry about it when going out to a nightclub here."

Since 1995, there have been 198 GHB-related fatalities, most in the United States, according to findings from a GHB research project headed by Deborah Zvosec, a Minnesota-based researcher.

"Most of the cases are people who were using either GHB recreationally or they were people who were using dietary supplements with compounds related to GHB," Zvosec said.

Getting hard data on drug-facilitated rape is difficult in large part because the drug can be detected in a victim's system for only a short period of time.

No incidents involving date-rape drugs have been reported in the last

six months to a year at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, according to Ilene Harned, who coordinates the school's Alcohol and Other Drug Office.

"That doesn't say that things haven't happened," she said. "But it doesn't seem to be as big of an issue as it was back in the mid-1990s."

Dec, the Chicago club owner, agreed. He recalled that in the late 1990s the date-rape drug-scare was everywhere, from "the trendiest of nightclubs to the slummiest of sports bars. It knew no boundaries. It was weird. It could happen to anybody."

Far and away, though, experts say the most used date-rape drug of all remains the most obvious: alcohol. Too many drinks, of course, can impair judgment.

Yet over the years, drinkers have grown a lot savvier about taking care. And bar and club owners have taken notice.

"I think women in general tend to go out and be social in small groups and they are often very territorial and protective of one another," said Matt Eisler, who owns Elm Street Liquors, a bar at 12 W. Elm in Chicago.

Here's one big change on the bar scene: It's no longer acceptable for a stranger to bring a woman a drink. If you want to buy a drink, now, it's only done when a woman goes up to the bar, watches the drink poured and then takes it directly from the bartender.

During a recent evening out at Chicago's Funky Buddha Lounge, a fashionably grungy place with two bars and pounding house music,



KRT photo

Keeping an eye on your drink may be your best defense against the threat of date-rape drugs.

Hurt, who was celebrating her birthday, and her friends Melanie Jackson, 25, and Sarah Stinson, 21, stuck together and made sure to bring their drinks wherever they went, even the restroom.

And they wouldn't dream of letting a man buy their drinks.

"I feel empowered telling a guy that I buy my own drinks," Jackson said.

Jackson said that last year at another bar, a friend of hers accepted a drink from a man and became quickly sick.

"I had to tell the guy to go home and I had to carry my friend to the car and put her into bed," Jackson said.

Women watching out for other women is now standard operating procedure.

Morgan Holland, 22, of Omaha, was out on the town with sisters Kristine Menas, 26, and Courtney Menas, 22, of Minneapolis.

They took care and guarded their drinks.

"I never set my drink down," Holland said.

And the women not only watched their drinks — they made

sure no suspicious characters were lurking around them.

"The thing with us is we're all loyal," Kristine Menas said. "We wouldn't let someone go home with some guy. We'd drag them out by their hair if we had to."

Even drinkers from another generation are adapting to the new rules of bar-going.

When she was in college, Kelly Klein, 41, of Naperville, Ill., said she routinely left drinks on the bar. The biggest fear then, she said, was that someone would take the drink — not spike it.

Defensive drinking was on display recently at Level, a bar-night club in the heart of Rush Street. One night recently, several bachelorette parties were in full-swing, as women held their drinks and danced to the pounding, rhythmic music.

They had a good time. But they also remained on watch.

"I never accept a drink from a guy," Stacy Conn, 27, of Chicago said. "I never turn my back on a drink. And if I somehow forget the drink, well, I walk away from it."

How to stay safe when a natural disaster strikes

By FAMILY CIRCLE
Knight Ridder Newspaper (KRT)

Natural disasters can strike at a moment's notice. Planning what to do in advance is an important part of being prepared. Family Circle offers advice on how to manage the disasters you're most likely to encounter.

HURRICANE

June 1 to November 30 is officially hurricane season. Protect your windows with shutters or have prefitted plywood prepared for quick

coverage. Make sure trees don't lean against your house and trim dead branches. During a watch, bring in outdoor objects like lawn furniture. If a warning is issued and you haven't evacuated, stay inside, away from windows. If you leave, beware upon your return of insects and animals driven to higher ground. It's critical to check for gas leaks and damage to power and water lines.

FLOODS

During a flood watch, move valuables to higher floors. Follow the news—if told to evacuate, do so

right away, moving to higher ground. If your car stalls in rapidly rising water, abandon it and climb to higher ground. Cars can be swept away in just two inches of water.

TORNADOES

If inside go to the basement. If you can't, go to an inner hallway or small room without windows, like a bathroom or closet. Steer clear of windows and corners. If you can't get indoors, lie flat in a ditch. If in your car, never try to outride a tornado.

LIGHTNING

If inside when lightning strikes, don't handle electrical equipment, especially televisions or phones. Avoid bathtubs, faucets or sinks, which transmit electricity. Outside? Enter a building or car. If you can't, locate open space and squat low to the ground, hands on knees—don't lie flat. Avoid tall structures, such as trees, and natural "lightning rods" like golf clubs and bodies of water. If driving, pull over and stay in the car, emergency flashers on.

EARTHQUAKES

During a quake, get cover under heavy furniture and hold on. Stay away from walls of buildings since most casualties result from collapsing walls, flying glass and falling objects. If outside, move away from buildings, streetlights and utility wires and crouch low to the ground. In a car, stop driving and stay inside. Assess bridges or ramps for their stability when you proceed.

NECC Professor assists in sea rescue

Professor Flynn helps rescue three men in the Irish Sea

By KIM DEPIERO
Features Editor

Miles from shore in the 50-degree water of the Irish Sea, the Megawat was sinking.

As the sea gushed into the 41-foot sailboat's ruptured hull, the crew aboard Quite Correct, a 54-foot Jeanneau yacht, abruptly changed course south-southeast, splitting through 35-knot winds and nine-foot seas in response to Megawat's Mayday cry.

Northern Essex Community College professor, Peter Flynn, a guest aboard Quite Correct on May 25, discovered his vacation itinerary would prove more eventful than participating in the Bell Lawrie Scottish Series Regatta in East Loch, Tarbert.

A feeling of general calm quickly changed to general chaos, Flynn said. The other crewmen: Flynn's cousin, Tom Mulligan, boat owner, John Roberts, Brian Matthews and John Veale were friends of the men aboard the foundering vessel.

"The adrenalin was flowing," said Flynn.

"We were headed downwind when we heard the 'Mayday.' And sailing downwind, in heavy winds, is relatively easy going because you're going with the wind. ... We spun around—now it's a whole different story—because we were going into the wind.

"You take your sails down, turn the motor on, now you have white spray in your face. As you go back to them waves are now crashing on the boat. They said they were sinking. Mayday means dire emergency," said

Flynn.

Megawat's crew in the water would be a dangerous development, Flynn explains. A person immersed in 50-degree seawater couldn't survive longer than 30 or 60 minutes without a survival suit, according to "sailors wisdom," says Flynn.

The crew of Megawat did not have survival suits—or a life raft—as it turned out. The CO2 canister used to inflate the raft "stopped hissing after just five seconds," said Megawat's owner, Philip Watson, writing for the Howth Yacht Club News.

With Merchant Marine veteran Brian Matthews manning the helm, Quite Correct found Megawat in 15 minutes, according to Flynn. The three men wearing life jackets beckoned their rescuers to pull alongside the sinking boat, already 20-percent submerged, said Flynn.

"They were yelling, 'Come and get us! Come and get us!' They were panicked. ... The boat was tipping and the floorboards were already floating in the cabin," said Flynn.

A boat-to-boat transfer seemed self-destructive therefore was discounted, according to Flynn. Megawat had suffered a rudder fracture during the mishap. "The rigging was all over the place, the mast and the boom was wildly rocking," he said.

"It (Megawat) could wreck the boat (Quite Correct). In fact, it could sink our boat. You could get tangled up in the rigging and you have a 41-foot boat that is pulling you down," Flynn said.

Asking the three men to swim a short distance away from the flailing boat to a safer pickup spot was also rejected. Flynn recalls the words of Matthews, "Once people are in the water, bad things can happen."

"A lot of things can happen. They can panic. Their life vests can fall off. You don't know how well

they can swim, you don't know much about these people," Flynn said.

Ultimately, Matthews, the most experienced member, commanding huge vessels in the South Pacific, said Flynn, made the decision to wait until Megawat became weighed down by taking in more water, a strategy that would stabilize the boat and allow a dry rescue, Flynn said.

"The discussion eventually concluded that we should not approach the boat until it was very low in the water and then what we should do is drag the rigid inflatable (fiberglass bottom life craft with inflated sides) across the stern," said Flynn.

Quite Correct circled Megawat for 20 minutes allowing the boat to submerge 60 to 80 percent, according to Flynn. With Matthews still at the helm, Flynn and another crewmember latched a line to the life raft, and aided by a halyard, a device used to raise and drop the sail, lowered the unmanned craft into the sea, he explained.

The three men, Watson, Roger Cagney and Brian McDowell were pulled onboard, each with a hastily grabbed bag of belongings, leaving behind laptops, cameras and other expensive items, said Flynn.

"Brian (McDowell) was in shock when we took him off. He was shaking and turned completely white. The other two guys had more sea experience. They were excited, but this guy (Brian) couldn't talk," said



Peter Flynn photo

The crew of the Quite Correct, responsible for saving shipmates on the Megawat.

Flynn.

Flynn photographed Megawat less than an hour before the distress call as Quite Correct overtook the smaller boat, both crews traveling to Tarbert. He observed Megawat riding up and down on the seas in contrast to Quite Correct, a larger and heavier boat, "busting through the seas," he said.

"Nine foot seas, at short intervals, it's fairly choppy or it would be if you were in a 41-foot boat like the Megawat. The seas were more of an issue for them. ... The seas were catching them and they were riding down the side of the wave," said Flynn.

Megawat's crew believes, according to Flynn, that the rudder, a blade attached to a stainless steel post, encased in a stainless steel cylinder, snapped as McDowell, who was at the helm, maneuvered to correct Megawat's position when the boat was, "sailing down a wave ... sideways," said Flynn.

The rudderpost is designed to fall from its cylinder in the event of a rudder break, resulting in a boat with no steering, but still afloat, according to Flynn. Megawat sank because as the rudder fell from its cylinder, water pressure against the blade exerted sufficient leverage for the attached rudderpost to break the cylinder away from the hull, explains Flynn.

The breach was catastrophic, allowing an estimated 200 gallons per minute to surge into the hull, according to Flynn. Megawat sank in 40 minutes, he said.

Flynn took the role of photographer during the crisis.

"I was the fifth man on the boat. Those guys' worked together ... they'd been together awhile; they knew how each guy operates. I was a guest, so I just shut-up, stepped back, and took pictures," said Flynn.

Evidently they liked his photographs. Flynn received an invitation to return to Ireland for the 2006 race from Dun Laoghaire to Dingle.



Peter Flynn photo

The Quite Correct, in all its glory.



Peter Flynn photo

The Megawat, four minutes prior to fully sinking.

WANT TO DO SOMETHING TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA?



During the month of September, NECC's Gay-Straight Alliance and Contemporary Affairs Club will be collecting toiletries for the thousands of victims of Hurricane Katrina

Toiletries of all types (hotel size and full-size) for men, women, and children can be left in various drop boxes throughout campus. Your generosity is appreciated.

Drop Box locations:

Bentley Library, 1st floor
Teaching & Learning Center, B136
Secretary's Office, C314X
Student Activities Office, D119

Arts & Entertainment

'Taming of the Shrew' comes to NECC for students to enjoy

Students from Salem State come to perform Fri., Sept. 16

BY CHRISTA LARSON
Arts & Entertainment Editor



Despite the rain and having to be held inside, William Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew" was a complete success. Cast members from Salem State

College all did an incredible job.

Most of them playing more than one role held a great performance that kept the audience laughing. The set was as alive and as colorful as the actors. There was never a dull moment. The actors bounced around on stage and were loud and funny. From the beginning of the play the audience was laughing and it didn't really cense until the end.

Though the actors were from Salem State College, the NECC Office of Institutional Advancement, Academic Affairs and the NECC Top Notch Players



Christa Larson photo

The characters Bastista, Sly and Tranio from the play.

sponsored the play. Also, there were two former NECC students that contributed to this play, including Paul Melendy, responsible for playing the dual roles of Tranio and Hortensio. At one point the two character where on the stage at the same time and he slyly slid over to the other character, which was very impressive because it wasn't that noticeable. The other former NECC student was Duncan Jenner who was the Sound Board Operator.

The "Taming of the Shrew" did start off kind of weird. A drunken man named Sly was passed out and this lady decided to make him think he was some Lord. So, when he awoke he had servants and was in a

nice home. She told him that he could have a play performed for him, then they got into the "Taming of the Shrew". The play starts off with Lucentio, a boy who sees Bianca and falls madly in love with her.

He wants to court her but her father has strict rules that she cannot date until her sister Kate gets married. There is a problem with this because her sister is an awful person, never happy, and always fighting with people. Having to get close to Bianca, Lucentio disguises himself as a Latin teacher so he can be alone with her. His servant then disguises himself as Lucentio so he can work on the father.



Christa Larson photo

A scene from the performance of the Shakespeare comedy, "Taming of the Shrew."

Then comes Petruchio a man that will marry a wealthy woman despite her manner or anything else. He hears of Kate and the awful but very wealthy young woman. When they meet they have many words including Kate refusing his proposal, but when her father comes around and Petruchio says they will be getting married, she is silent. They get married and he brings her back to him house to "Tame" her. He doesn't let her eat

and keeps her from sleeping so she is too exhausted to argue with him. Her sister is allowed to marry Lucentio and everyone lives happily ever after.

Though understanding Shakespeare is difficult, the performance from these actors was excellent and following the story was easy and enjoyable.

'The Sociopath Next Door'

Some people don't even have a conscience

BY MIKE NUTTER
Contributing Reporter

Every once in a while, I run into a book that leaves me feeling that I wish I had read it long before now. This is one of those books.

Perhaps it just confirms my point of view on human nature, but I'd rather think that it gives voice to some things that have been on my mind, but I never before articulated very well. When I first saw it, the book seemed to be looking back at me, as three sets of eyes stared out from the cover, and below them it posed the question, "Who is the devil you know?"

The author seems credible enough, but the work is clearly aimed at the mass of us laymen, who don't see things in medical or professional terms. She sometimes oversells her point a bit and gets a little preachy, but in the end she provides a useful perspective on a problem that increasingly afflicts all of us.

That problem in a nutshell is people without a conscience. These are not axe wielding mass murderers, but people who seem ordinary and usually even quite charming because they are not troubled by

real feelings that may cramp their style, but don't seem to experience any emotional attachment to others, and can say or do anything to satisfy their own ends. Those ends will vary, thus giving a lot of variety to their behavior, but the common denominator is that they will use, humiliate, sabotage or ruin those who get in their way, and sometimes just for the pure satisfaction of doing so.

Among the important points the author makes is that while in some countries the rate of this sort of pathology is less than one half of one percent, in the USA we have hit four percent and it is still rising. Multiply that four percent by the population and you are in the league of diseases that we would consider as epidemic. The problem with sociopathy is that the person with the problem is not the one that suffers, or as the author states it, they experience no "dis-ease" from their disease. Their blind spot for the humanity of others is so blank that they don't understand your complaint, they don't think that have a problem, and they neither seek or respond to treatment.

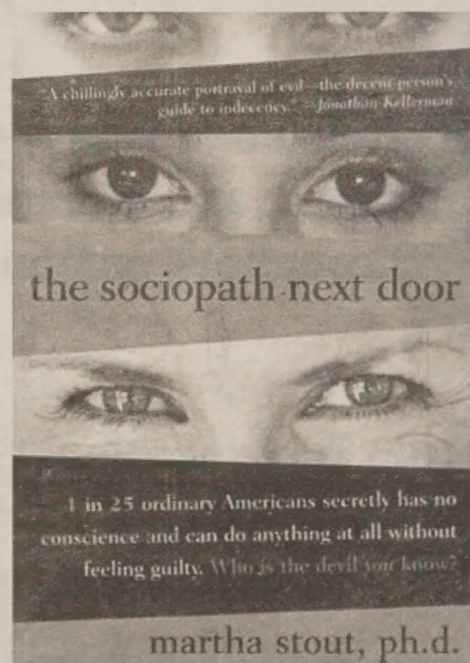
Ms. Stout does a good job of describing and illustrating the condition, and in differentiating it from other similar problems she throws a lot of light on those other conditions as well. The thing she talked about that really gave me a sense of "déjà vu" was a kind of co-dependency between our little dictator

"want-to-be" personalities and the "I was just following orders" followers that they collect around themselves (remember

Nuremberg). I think most of us have heard of the research where test subjects who are told they are part of an experiment on some one else, are willing to give increasing electric shocks even when it seems dangerous to the victim, as long as some credible authority figure was present to authorize it. That research which has apparently been validated, indicates that about 60 percent of the public falls into this category of stunted moral development that will let them follow orders from any "surrogate parent" who can grasp the brass ring of legitimacy. The upshot of this is that sociopathic personalities seek legitimacy so they can increase their blast radius by using these "good soldiers".

If you'll forgive a short digression into pop culture, then consider the character of Professor Umbridge in the fifth book of the Harry Potter series. Those of you who have read it will recognize the character as the very archetype of what Ms. Stout is talking about. The fact that the Potter series was written in England, but every American school child who picks up the book can identify with what is happening lends an interesting confirmation to Ms. Stout.

You may properly infer some things about my views of our edu-



The cover of "The Sociopath Next Door"

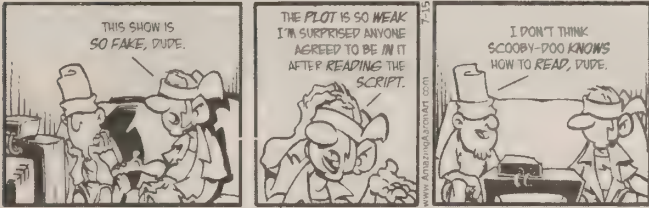
cational system, but I'm not your conscience, or your surrogate parent. Read the book and make your own decisions. As for me, I'm going to look through my old stuff from 1969 to see if I still have that

copy of Jerry Rubin's "Revolution for the Hell of it". I'm feeling a powerful urge to re-read it.

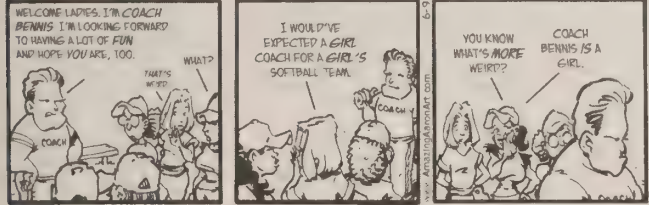
Mike Nutter is a member of the NECC faculty.

Arts & Entertainment

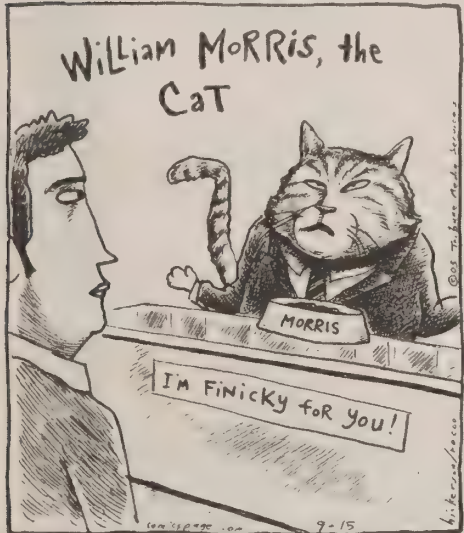
Two Dudes



A College Girl Named Joe

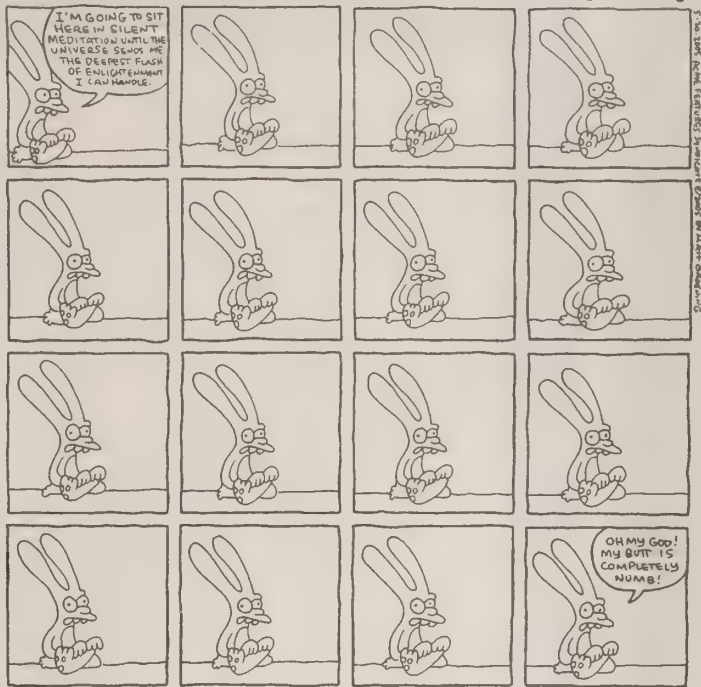


Francine finally meets herself a man from a fairy tale.



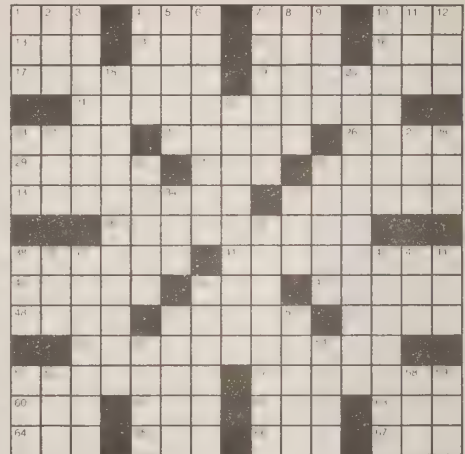
"You're my favorite client. so I'm dangling the string for the best offer! So quit the kvetching. You're giving me such a hairball."

LIFE IN HELL



Crossword

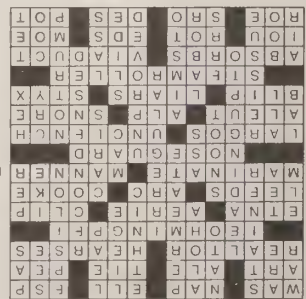
- ACROSS
- 1 Once existed
 - 4 Doze
 - 7 Building add-on
 - 10 Psychic's ability
 - 13 Actor Carney
 - 14 Pub preference
 - 15 Cravat
 - 16 Round legume
 - 17 Property merchant
 - 19 Funeral vehicles
 - 21 Mile High Center architect
 - 23 Sicilian volcano
 - 25 Eagle's abode
 - 26 Football foul
 - 29 City on the Aire
 - 31 Trajectory
 - 32 "You Send Me" singer
 - 33 Soak in wine
 - 35 Behavior
 - 36 Football lineman
 - 38 Very slow tempos
 - 41 Release, as a list
 - 45 Native Alaskan
 - 46 Lofty peak
 - 47 Sound asleep?
 - 48 Radar screen image
 - 49 Truth twisters
 - 51 Netherworld river
 - 52 Roadwork vehicle
 - 55 Soaks up
 - 57 Span of arches
 - 60 \$ promise
 - 61 Decompose
 - 62 Asner and Wynn
 - 63 Skier Tommy
 - 64 "Sheila" singer
 - 65 Overflow letters
 - 66 Moines, IA
 - 67 Poker winnings
- DOWN
- 1 Word with cry or chest
 - 2 Metric square measure
 - 3 Tarnisher
 - 4 W. alliance
 - 5 Wahine's welcome
 - 6 Pass through
 - 7 Racial
 - 8 Feudal lord
 - 9 Vault
 - 10 Fifth Greek letter
 - 11 Meet with
 - 12 Ballerina steps
 - 18 Before
 - 20 Abridged anew
 - 22 Anomalous
 - 23 "A Nightmare on Street"
 - 24 Earl Grey, e.g.
 - 27 '50s candidate to like?
 - 28 Part of mph
 - 30 Schnoz
 - 32 Reiner and Jung
 - 34 Beast of burden
 - 35 Scottish prefix
 - 37 Yet to be verified
 - 38 Experimental rm.
 - 39 Every bit
 - 40 Publish again
 - 42 Bid without a suit
 - 43 Weep
 - 44 Put a spell on
 - 46 Has intentions
 - 49 Workers as a group
 - 50 End of a steal
 - 53 Muffs it
 - 54 Young miss
 - 55 Lung filler
 - 56 Scare word
 - 58 Bill and
 - 59 Asian holiday



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09/19/05

Solutions



PROTECTING SOURCES IS PROTECTING DEMOCRACY

Judith Miller, a reporter for the New York Times, has been sent to jail for refusing to testify before a grand jury about a confidential source. For defenders of the First Amendment this is a crucial juncture in our nation's history.

It is essential to our country's democracy that journalists be able to report information without fear of intimidation or imprisonment. This sometimes requires the use of confidential sources. Many major news stories such as the Watergate revelations have depended on confidential sources. The public is the chief beneficiary. Sometimes individuals with critical information will only speak on the condition that their identities are not revealed.

For that reason, a majority of the states and the District of Columbia recognize the need for confidential sources and have enacted media shield laws to protect journalists from disclosing those sources. There is no federal shield law statute, however, to protect Judith Miller from having to disclose the identity of her source. She has been sent to jail, even though she never wrote an article, based on her confidential source.

As citizens—and as journalists—committed to a free press and the free flow of information, we support the passage of a Federal shield law. And we urge you to join with us in speaking out against the imprisonment of Judith Miller.

Edward Albee, playwright
Andrew Alexander, Washington bureau
chief, Cox Newspapers
A.L. Alford Jr., editor and publisher,
Louisiana Tribune, LA
George Albhoff, publisher, Portage
Dispatch, Capital Newspapers, WI
Reed Anfinson, publisher, Sun City
Morning News, Benson, MN
Paul Auster, author
Pete Banko, managing editor, Missouri
Mirror, PA
Russell Banks, author
Sandra S. Baron, executive editor,
Media Line Resource Center
James Bettinger, director, John S.
Knight Fellowship, Stanford University
Peter Bhatia, Oregonian, OR
Susan Bischoff, executive editor, Houston
Chronicle
Brenda Blagg, regional editor,
Minnesota News, AK
Richard Blumenthal, Connecticut
attorney general
Julian Bond, executive director,
NAACP
Tom Brokaw, correspondent-at-large,
NBC
Jerry E. Brown, dean, School of
Journalism, University of Montana
Jeff Bruce, editor, Dayton Daily News
Arne Carlson, former governor, MN
John Carroll, former editor,
Los Angeles Times
Phil Casasa, editor, Albuquerque Tribune
Mae Cheng, president, UNITY:
Journalists of Color, Inc.
Ron Chernow, biographer, historian
Doug Clifton, editor,
Grand Plain Dealer
Chris Cobler, editor,
Greely Tribune, CO
John Connolly, president,
Federation of Television & Radio
Journalists
Brian Cooper, executive editor,
Tribune Herald, Dubuque, IA
Matthew Cooper, White House
correspondent, Time magazine
John Costa, editor, The Bulletin,
Bend, OR
Walter Cronkite, journalist
Lucy Dalglish, executive director,
Reporters Committee for Freedom of
the Press
Tom Daschle, former Senate leader, SD
Tony Dearing, editor, Bay City Times, MI
Ariel Dorfman, playwright, novelist
Drew Edmondson, Oklahoma
attorney general
Bob Edwards, host, Bob Edwards Show,
XM Satellite Radio
Myron Farber, former reporter,
New York Times
Geri Ferrara, editor, Dominion Post,
Arlington, VA
Luis A. Ferré Rangel, editor,
El Nuevo Día, Puerto Rico
Charles M. Firestone, executive director,
The Aspen Institute, Communications and
Security Program
Francis Fitzgerald, author
Ellen Foley, editor,
Wisconsin State Journal, WI
Linda Foley, president,
Newspaper Guild-CWA

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St. Petersburg Times, FL
Bob Giles, editor,
University of Illinois
Scott Gillespie, managing editor,
Tribune, Minneapolis, MN
Francisco Goldman, novelist, journalist
Barbara Goldsmith, author
Greg Gordon, Washington correspondent,
McClatchy Newspapers
Fred Graham, chief anchor and
managing editor, Court TV
Rex Gramum, executive director,
American Society of Newspaper Editors
Irwin Gratz, president, National
Professional Journalists
Anders Gyllenhaal, editor,
Star Tribune, Minneapolis, MN
Charlotte H. Hall, senior vice president,
Miami Herald
John Hall, senior editor,
Washington Post
Steve Haynes, publisher,
Goodland Star, KS
Richard Hensley, editor,
Hillbillys, Idaho, Selby, ID
Gary Hill, editor,
New York Times
Linwood Holton, former governor,
VA
Rob Hotakainen, vice president,
Minneapolis, MN
Brant Houston, executive director,
Investigative Reporters and Editors
and National Institute of Commerce
Joe Howry, editor,
Clark Hoyt, editor,
Don Huescher, editor,
John Hughes, syndicated columnist,
and chief operating officer,
Morning News, Salt Lake City, UT
Al Hunt, managing editor, Washington
Blomberg News
Sandra Keyes, editor,
Honolulu Advertiser
Larry King, executive editor,
Crain World Herald
Craig Klugman, editor, Journal Gazette,
Fort Wayne, IN
Ted Koppel, anchor and managing
editor, Nightline, ABC News
David Kraslow, Washington bureau
chief, Cox Newspapers
John Lampinen, editor, senior vice
president, Daily Herald, suburban Chicago
Donald R. Larrabee, Griffin-Larrabee
News Bureau
Kathy Lawrence, president,
College Media Advisors
Dale Leibach, former assistant press
secretary to President Jimmy Carter
Carl Leubsdorf, Washington bureau
chief, Dallas Morning News
Frances Levine, CNN assignment editor
Simon K.C. Li, assistant managing editor,
Los Angeles Times
Ron Magers, editor,
John Mancini, editor,
Carol Marin, editor,
New York Times

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President Bill Clinton
Jack McElroy, editor,
Knoxville News Sentinel
James M. McCarvey, editor,
Herald News, West Peterson, NJ
George McGovern, former Senator, SD
Tim J. McGuire, columnist and former
president, American Society of Newspaper
Editors
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attorney general
Walter Mears, retired vice president,
Associated Press
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Jackson, MS
Bill Monroe, former moderator,
Meet the Press
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Los Angeles Daily News, CA
Jack Nelson, retired Washington
bureau chief, Los Angeles Times
John A. Nelson, managing editor,
Missouri Messenger, Danville, KY
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editorial correspondent, McClatchy
Newspapers
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National Association of Hispanic Journalists
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Los Angeles Times
Hannah Pakula, author
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Wilmington, NC
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St. Petersburg Times
Matthew Paxton, publisher, News
Lexington, VA
Donna Penticuff, president,
National Federation of Press Women
Skip Perez, executive editor, Ledger,
Lakeland, FL
Daniel Petrie Jr., president,
Writers Guild of America, west
Jody Powell, former press secretary to
President Jimmy Carter
Mike Riley, editor, Roanoke Times
David Riser, executive editor,
Statesman Journal, Salem, OR
James Riser, director emeritus,
John S. Knight Fellowship, Stanford
University
Ken Robertson, executive editor,
Tri-City Herald, Kennewick, WA
Cindy Rodriguez, general at-large officer,
National Association of Hispanic Journalists
Rick Rodriguez, president, American
Society of Newspaper Editors and
executive editor, Sacramento Bee
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Kathleen Rutledge, editor,
Lincoln Journal Star, NE
William Safire, columnist, New York Times
Jonathan Safran Foer, author
Genda Sattler, editor and publisher,
Garden City Telegram, KS
Michael Scammell, editor,
Bob Schieffer, correspondent, CBS News
Daniel Schorr, senior editor,
National Public Radio
Patrick J. Sloyan, director,
Fund for Investigative Journalism
Hendrick Smith, former Washington
bureau chief, New York Times

Rex Smith, editor,
Times, KY
Dennis Sodomka, executive editor,
Augusta Chronicle, GA
Ellen Soetbeer, editor,
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Eliot Spitzer, New York State
attorney general
Suzette Martinez Standing, columnist,
National Society of Newspaper
Editors
David Starr, senior editor, Nebraska
Newspapers
John W. Stevenson, editor and publisher,
Ramolph Leader, Roanoke, VA
Mark W.C. Stodder, executive editor,
president, newspaper, Doka Media (C
Minneapolis, MN
Bob Stiff, executive editor, Dispatch, NJ
John Sweeney, president, AFL-CIO
Paul Tash, editor and chairman,
St. Petersburg Times
Joyce Terhaar, managing editor,
Sacramento Bee
Jerald Terhorst, press secretary for
President Gerald R. Ford
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Betty Wong, managing editor,
American Company, Reuters American LLC
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David Zeck, executive editor,
News Tribune, Tacoma, WA
Fred Zipp, managing editor,
Austin American-Statesman

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Radio Artists (AFTRA)
American Society of Business
Publication Editors
American Society of Newspaper Editors
Asian American Journalists Association
Education Writers Association
Investigative Reporters and Editors
and National Institute of
Computer Assisted Reporting
Media Law Resource Center
National Association of
Black Journalists
National Association of
Hispanic Journalists
National Federation of Press Women
National Newspaper Association
Newspaper Association of America
PEN American Center
Radio-Television News Directors
Association
Religion Newswriters Association
Reporters Committee for Freedom of
the Press
Society of American Business
Editors & Writers
Society of Professional Journalists
The Newspaper Guild-CWA
UNITY: Journalists of Color, Inc.

In the last 18 months, more than two dozen reporters were questioned or subpoenaed about their confidential sources. New York Times reporter Judith Miller sits in jail and other reporters could face imprisonment. Without the promise of confidentiality, sources—especially whistleblowers—will not come forward with evidence of wrongdoing in government or the private sector. Confidential sources help get information to the public so citizens can participate fully in our democracy.

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Style

Embellishments bring in Fall fashions

Accessories add
new looks to basic
fall fashions

By ALISON KAPLAN
Knight Ridder Newspapers

(KRT) ST. PAUL, Minn.—The Plain Jane routine isn't going to cut it for fall. From jackets to shoes, it's all in the details: brocade, embroidery, sequins, grommets, fur, lots of pattern and velvet, velvet, velvet.

"Opulent" is the fashion adjective of the moment. The theme is everyday luxury. So, update your work suit with an Edwardian blouse. Go bohemian with a full skirt but in an unexpectedly dressy fabric, like satin or taffeta. Buy a seemingly frivolous patterned coat—with its fitted cut and feminine details, it can do double duty as a dress. Pair creams and brown with rich jewel tones or dress in black (perhaps you've heard, it's back) from head to toe. And wear velvet—did we mention velvet?—all day.

"A lot of things we're seeing right now are very familiar pieces, but they're done in a new fabric or

color," says Nordstrom fashion director Gregg Andrews. "It's about juxtaposition — denim with velvet. That makes it easy to get a lot of use out of it."

If you were to buy just one new piece (and bravo, if you're that disciplined), it would have to be a fancy, fitted jacket. Andrews calls it the "special jacket" but says you shouldn't save it for special occasions. Wear it to the office with a crisp shirt and trousers. Wear it out to dinner with jeans and lingerie-inspired camisole. Wear it to a party with a full taffeta skirt.

Everyday luxury means the still-present bohemian influence and dressing up are not at odds. This time around, the bohemian look is more refined, Marshall Field's fashion expert Laura Schara says. Slouchy tops are cinched with decorative belts, for example. There's an Eastern European flavor to the tiered skirts, romantic blouses and layered necklaces you'll see all over the mall.

So what does it all mean for your wardrobe? Embrace the embellishments. If jeans with beading or a velvet jacket is too much for you, consider a glamorous scarf or detailed handbag or decorated shoe. Says Schara, "It's fun to have unique pieces."

BEST BETS FOR FALL

- Velvet jackets
- Lace blouses
- Sweater jackets
- Military jackets
- Luxurious coats in patterns or with fur trim
- Gauche pants
- Menswear trousers
- Full skirts
- Wedges and decorated shoes
- Boots of all kinds—motorcycle, equestrian, fur-trimmed
- Handbags with metallic finish or metal accents
- Layered necklaces



KRT photo

FASHION THAT FITS

Skinny jeans, oversized sweaters—it all looks great on models. But Mall of America fashion expert Sara Rogers helps the rest of us play with proportions to pull off some (never attempt all) of the newest looks:

Cropped trousers: Not for petite girls. But if you're average or tall, try them with a high-heel boot and one of the new, longer, cardigan sweater coats.

Cropped sweaters: The key is the layering component underneath. Look for longer styles. If you have tummy concerns, look for a fabric that will skim over your middle with grace and ease, like satin.

Full skirts: If you're fuller-figured, an A-line skirt isn't necessarily your best friend. A fitted style that flares would be more flattering.

Skinny-leg pants: You need a boyish figure to look good. Otherwise, find a jacket that's more forgiving over the thigh to wear with them. Or skip this trend and stick with boot-cut pants—they balance your curves.

Blouses: Don't go too costume-y, but poet sleeves are great for fuller arms.

Embellished belts: Fuller-figured beauties are not going to rock with that belt. Just remember to pick one fuller piece and balance it by keeping everything else narrow.

CAN I STILL WEAR ...

Last year's tweed? Of course. Tweed is classic. Update with a lavender top or a feminine blouse.

Pointy-toe heels? Yes, especially with men's-inspired trousers. Round toes are newer, but almost everything goes this year.

Summer's wood bracelets? "I wouldn't do wood alone," Nordstrom's Andrews says. "But take some of those wood bangles, especially in darker colors, and mix them with gold."

Shearling? Absolutely. A lot of shearling-lined coats and vests are still being shown.

Bright color? Jewel tones and shades of purple look much newer, but that doesn't mean you shouldn't be seen in pink or orange. Pair brights with warm neutrals rather than black. "Black is best worn as an ensemble—black with black," Andrews says. "Black with color is not quite where we are right now."

Ponchos? We warned you last year not to invest a lot in this overplayed trend. Retire them. They'll be back eventually.

Horoscopes



ARIES (March 21-April 20) Before mid-week, family decisions will work to your advantage. Older relatives may this week accept home proposals or unique financial ideas. Group benefits and shared responsibility may be a strong theme: remain open to unusual suggestions from family members. Wednesday through Friday highlight romantic invitations and late social announcements. Stay alert: there's much to be learned. After Saturday, rest and pamper the body. Physical vitality may be low.



TAURUS (April 21-May 21) Over the next few days, a close friend or relative may express strong opinions. Social choices, new friendships or the group activities of loved ones will be at issue. Refuse to be drawn into emotional discussions: patience and cheerful acceptance will bring the desired results. Tuesday through Friday, business or work schedules require serious improvement. Authority figures will soon rely heavily on your ability to speak for the group or influence others. Don't disappoint.



GEMINI (May 21-June 21) Romantic invitations and last minute social announcements will this week demand decisive action. Friends and potential lovers may compete for your time or attention. Already attached Geminis can also expect sudden family expenses or travel proposals. Stay sharp: in the coming weeks, loved ones may be sensitive to issues of loyalty, trust and public affection. Later this week vivid

dreams may reveal surprising career or partnership opportunities. Proceed with caution.



CANCER (June 22-July 22) Delicate counseling and private discussions are accentuated over the next eight days. Younger friends or relatives will this week rely on your family experience, instincts or social wisdom. Group acceptance or repeated patterns may be a reoccurring theme: trust your first impressions and offer lengthy explanations. Thursday through Sunday, a long-term relationship begins a new phase of emotional negotiation. Plan unique activities and encounters: intimacy will increase.



LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Early this week, a close friend may request a unique favor. Pay special attention to romantic introductions, planned events and privately disclosed information. Be consistent and watch for subtle emotional triangles: social dynamics may be more complex than anticipated. Tuesday through Friday, a business official may reverse recently established policies or agreements. Wait for clarity and avoid confrontation: this is not the right time to question the wisdom of others.



VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Property decisions may be highly demanding before mid-week: expect time sensitive payments, hidden rules or vague schedules to require public resolution. Official documents and group approval will eventually work to your advantage, so not to worry. At

present, however, small errors and misinformation may prove annoying. Later this week, ask older friends or relatives for advice. Someone close may soon offer valuable insights into the actions of a new friend or lover.



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) Discussions with friends may reveal unexpected information over the next eight days. Previously withheld opinions, fast ideas and minor social criticisms will prove distracting. Avoid appearing shocked or emotionally derailed: your expectations and reactions are now extremely important to loved ones. After Thursday, work officials will provide little insight into recent decisions. Remain quietly detached: promotions, job titles or vital assignments may trigger workplace tensions.



SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 22) Intuitive wisdom is now on the rise. Early this week, many Scorpions will experience a powerful wave of dream activity and deep emotional change. Areas affected are romantic sincerity, social promises or short-term home commitments. Remain open to sudden impressions: in the coming weeks loved ones will expect a candid explanation of your plans, insights and expectations. After Friday, financial partnerships may need to be negotiated. Don't back down: your goals are valid.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23-Dec. 21) Old friends or business associates will now demand renewed attention. Unfinished projects and past promises may prove

particularly troublesome. Use this time to restate expectations and clarify yesterday's decisions: your judgments have been accurate from the start. Thursday through Saturday, family members may ask for greater access to your daily social activities. Habits, home routines and repeated patterns are accentuated. Stay focused: passions may be high.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 20)

Friend and lovers may this week challenge your suggestions. Group planning and last minute social events will cause minor tensions to escalate. Over the next eight days, friends and lovers are more vulnerable than expected: remain sensitive to issues of privacy, broken loyalties or social disappointment. Friday through Sunday, a romantic interest or group invitation proves distracting. Trusted friends may feel abandoned: take time to listen to the emotional needs of loved ones.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 21-Feb. 19) In the coming weeks, home schedules, family plans and private expectations may be in conflict. Someone close now feels isolated or misunderstood. Pay attention to subtle hints, gestures or suggestions. At present, loved ones will require gentle acceptance and obvious emotional support. Thursday through Saturday, a business official from the past may reappear and offer new career pathways. Carefully consider all options: rapid growth may soon be unavoidable.



PISCES (Feb. 20-March 20) Sensuality and physical vitality will this week inspire rare passions. After Tuesday, many Pisceans will end several weeks of lagging social or romantic interest. Wednesday through Saturday also accent new relationships, complex flirtations or rekindled promises: expect fast progress in long-term relationships and dramatic overtures from potential lovers. Remain cautious, however: ethical or family decisions may be required before the end of September.

If your birthday is this week: Business officials and older colleagues will not be open to new suggestions before the end of October. Job promotions, financial settlements or workplace permissions will trigger unusual disputes over the next 6 weeks. Pace yourself and wait for a revised agenda to eclipse present priorities: after November 6th, a new era of co-operation and shared responsibility will arrive in all business relationships. Early in 2006, romantic and home expectations may dramatically increase. Loved ones and romantic partners may demand reliable housing or relocation decisions before mid-February. Remain patient: financial details and rare legal documents will dictate plans, promises and short-term opportunities. After March 26th, family members may also discover new or unique sources of income.

Sports

Fall sports season gets underway

Continued from Page 1

Volleyball

Last season was a frustrating year for the women's volleyball team. They struggled to field any kind of team for most of the season but a strong turnout so far this fall has rejuvenated the program.

"We are extremely excited right now. Things are definitely looking up for volleyball this season," said volleyball head coach and Athletic Director Sue MacAvoy. "We have never looked this good this early in the season."

The Knights have a strong group of incoming freshman who are joining with the remaining players from last year, Ely Nieves and co-captain Mary Peralta, to form a solid team.

Among the newcomers are Amanda Jankowski, Alicia Noury, Heather Fritz, Carol Delaney, Marcelina Pinola and co-captain Katherine Surette. All with four years of high school volleyball under their belts, the incoming group provides a wealth of experience that has been lacking for the Knights in the past.

In just a few weeks of practice, the Knights are beginning to bond as a team.

"We are a strong team that plays well together," said co-captain Peralta.

"We help each other out and have no problems. As a team we mesh very well," added co-captain Surette.

The turn out problems of the past hope to be letting up.

"It has been a challenge," said assistant coach Jennifer Belcher. "Now we have a great group that works really hard."

On Sept. 17, the Volleyball team got things started on the road with their first match of the season against Unity College. Despite going against a team that was entering its fourth game, the Knights put up a good fight but fell short in five games.

NECC would take the first game 30-25, but dropped back-to-back games, 28-30 and 17-30 to drop to 1-2 in the contest. The Knights played well but a lack of communication due to lack of experience as a team

would cost the team in the long run, as they dropped the final two games, 10-30 and 7-15.

In the loss Jankowski recorded 11 kills, Peralta recorded 24 assists, Pinola recorded 9 service aces, and Surette recorded 12 digs.

MacAvoy and Belcher saw good things from their team in the loss.

"This team is competitive and knows it can win. Following the game, the players were asking, 'do we play them again, because next time we'll beat them.' We just need to play more as a team that is our biggest weakness right now. We have plenty of talent and our players just need to become more familiar with each other on the court. We would not have lost this game if we had had more time to practice together," said MacAvoy.

"This team is gelling nicely. Coaches dream of having a team with this kind of talent that has the personalities on it to work together," added Belcher. "They play well as a team. Someone different stepped up at different times. Our problem is the unspoken communication that players have on the court. Knowing what the player next to you is going to do if the ball is hit in a certain location and things like that just takes time."

"As coaches, we need time too," said MacAvoy. "We are still learning what we need to say to certain players to motivate them. Do we yell? Do we joke? Do we say nothing? Jen (Belcher) and I were acting differently on the sidelines during the game. I would yell and she would talk. We need to figure out what works and what does not work for different players and that will come in time."

With what they saw on Saturday, the coaching staff expects good things.

"Expectations are high. We have talented players who work hard and want to win," said Belcher.

The Knights will get the additional time they need to bond when they wait eight days for their next game. The Knights will look to rebound from the season opener on Thurs., Sept. 29 as NHTI travels to NECC for the home opener at 6 p.m.

Cross Country

Coming off a strong season that saw four runners compete in the nationals last season, the cross-country team is reloading for another run at a national title.

"Every season is different but we have some strong runners this year

the cross-country program.

A high point for cross-country this year should be the turnout of the women.

"We had no women last season," said Caputo, "but there is a definite interest this year. It is always fun to coach both a men's and women's team and I am looking forward to this season."

Leading the women's team is Megan Lewis, a 2004 graduate of Andover High School. Lewis is coming off a down year but is expected to be a solid runner for the Knights.

The cross-country season builds toward the last two meets of the year: Northeast district on Nov. 5 and NJCAA National Championship on Nov. 12.

"These are what we build toward. We do not have a long season like baseball, for use it is all about those two meets," said Caputo.

NECC is the only community college in the state with a cross-country program. With the Community College of Rhode Island, it makes up the only cross-country programs in community colleges throughout all of New England.

As with volleyball, the biggest problem for the cross-country team is getting athletes to come out.

"So far, we have nine runners out for the team. We are just working on their eligibility," said Caputo, who is entering her eighth season as the head coach of cross-country at NECC.

Caputo does see a great chance to enlarge the program with the addition of spring track.

"Runners like to have more than one season to compete. Only running in the fall causes some athletes to lose focus in the long off-season and get out of shape."

"With the addition of track, our runners will have another season of

competition and any new runners that come out can be turned on to cross-country in the fall," said Caputo.

Even with the season far approaching, coach Caputo is always looking for new runners.

"We take people on well into the season. Anyone that wants to run, whether they have experience or not, is more than welcome to come out for the team," said Caputo.

Soccer Club

Although not thriving, the soccer club is still alive at NECC. With interest sparked, advisor Lenny Cavallaro has been working to get the club off the ground.

"I've heard enough interest from students, either in the halls or in my classes, for the club to work. The problem is the interested parties are not filling out the forms."

"All we need to proceed is for people to stop by Sue (MacAvoy's) office and fill out the one page soccer questionnaire that indicates their name, and the days and times they are available to play so we can set up a meeting," said Cavallaro.

"They could also email that information to me at TchLnSoccer@aol.com, providing a phone number and good times to call," said Cavallaro.

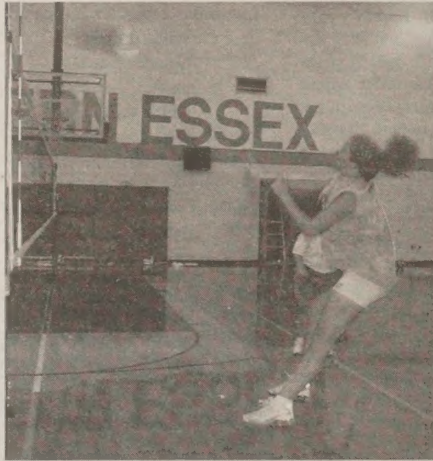
There is a definite interest in soccer at NECC.

"If this leads to a varsity team, would be interested in joining for that too," said Peter Gerakas, a student in the soccer club.

It's not too late to sign up for the soccer club. For additional information, stop into the Sports and Fitness Center and talk to Sue MacAvoy.

All of the athletic teams at NECC are highly competitive. Each team is filled with hardworking players that like to win. Do not hesitate to come out and cheer for the home team. They need all the support that you can give them.

Home games for all of the teams are free to attend and are held on the Haverhill campus in the Sports and Fitness building or on the surrounding fields.



Ryan McAskill photo

Heather Fritz, sending the ball over the net, is one of the promising newcomers to the Knights volleyball team.

who have experience," said cross-country head coach Dawn Caputo, who is entering her eighth season as the head coach of cross-country at NECC.

Of those runners is Joel Nunez, who is the top-returning runner from last season.

"Joel was consistently improving and developing last season. He is extremely competitive and I think the experience of running in the national meets last year is going to be a huge boost for him," said Caputo.

Nunez is joined this season by promising newcomers Mike Cenower and Joe Terlikosky. Cenower, a 2005 graduate of Haverhill High School, brings four years of high school cross-country experience with him. Terlikosky is a 2005 graduate of Timberlane High School in Hampstead and is the first New Hampshire athlete recruited to

2005 Volleyball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Site	Time
Sept.			
29	NHTI	Home	6:00
Oct.			
1	Holyoke	Away	TBA
6	NHTI	Home	6:00
8	NHTI	Home	TBA
11	Hesser	Away	6:00
15	Holyoke	Away	TBA

2005 Cross Country Schedule

Date	Meet	Site	Time
Sept.			
25	Gordon College Pop Crowell	Gordon College	10:30 (W) 11:30 (M)
Oct.			
2	Tri State Invitational	CCRI, Flanagan Campus	10:30 (W) 9:30 (M)
8	NHTI	Crocker Wellness Center	11:00
15	Rivier College	Nashua, NH	4:00 (M) 4:30 (W)
Nov.			
5	Northeast District	Suffolk C.C.	TBA
12	NJCAA Nations	Finger Lakes C.C.	10:00

Sports

Fitness center available for all students and staff use for free

By RYAN MCASKILL
Sports Editor

Training being offered for physical education majors

Hidden away in a small corner of the Haverhill campus, there is a place where the ideals of fitness and getting in shape reign supreme. A place where free-weights and cardio equipment is open to all. A place filled with friendly people eager to help those in need of exercise guidance. A place that not many people know about.

Inside the Sports and Fitness Center resides this hidden gem. For free, students and faculty of

Northern Essex have excess to a full weight room with over 4,000 pounds of free weights and 15 CYBEX strength machines, a separate cardio room with life cycles, stair climbers, treadmills, cable TV and locker rooms.

"We have one of the nicer facilities out of all the community colleges I have been to," said NECC Athletic Director Sue MacAvoy. "It's a great opportunity for students and staff but it seems to be a secret on campus."

Well, now the secret is out. Open from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, the Wellness and Fitness Center is a fully operational gym. Whether one is looking to seriously bulk up or just lose a few pounds, the center offers something for

everyone, whether you are a fitness fanatic, an exercise novice or something inbetween.

"We are set up for strength and conditioning for the (Northern Essex) athletes but we work with experienced weight lifters and beginners just the same," said Rob Parker, coordinator of the Wellness and Fitness Center and Sports and Leisure Studies.

Despite a small space the fitness center offers more then just the equipment.

"(The center) is a tight space but we get a lot out of it. We have a very friendly and welcoming atmosphere down here. You don't hear the grunting of serious body-builders, just people who want to get in shape," said Parker.

Aside from the free workouts for students and staff, the Wellness and Fitness Center also offers low cost alumni memberships, a low cost senior fitness program, strength and conditioning programs with local high schools and hands on training for NECC students who are looking to pursue a career in personal training.

"A lot of our staff are students who are looking to get certification in personal training or already have it and are looking for experience," said Parker. "I call (the center) our 'learning laboratory.' All the students are very eager to help people who are working out if they have questions and do a great job."

"I've been here for 2 and a half years and I've learned a lot," said Jennifer Polmor, a student trainer who currently works in the fitness center.

"You should have seen her



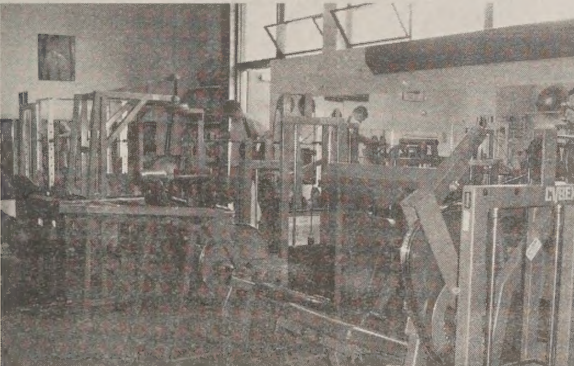
Ryan McAskill photo

The cardio room houses tread mills, rowing machines, life cycles and more for NECC use.

when she first started," joked Parker. "She was like a deer in headlights. Now, she does a fantastic job."

If you're a member of the Northern Essex community, why not stop down and take a look before you shell out cash for that

expensive gym membership. The Fitness and Wellness center supplies everything you will find somewhere else but adds convince and a non-threatening atmosphere.



Ryan McAskill photo

The weight room of the Wellness and Fitness center is a fully operational gym.

Recreation and Intramural schedule

September

- 22: Croquet
23: 8 ball pool tournament
26: Flag football
28: Whiffle ball
29: Dodgeball
30: ping Pong Tournament

October

- 3: Flag football
5: Whiffle ball
7: One mile fun run
11: Frisbee golf
13: Fall foliage hike
17: Flag football
19: Outdoor soccer
21: Ping Pong tournament
24: ultimate Frisbee
26: outdoor soccer
31: Ultimate Frisbee

November

- 2: outdoor soccer
4: Hot shots basketball (gym)
7: Ultimate Frisbee

- 9: outdoor soccer
14: Ultimate Frisbee
16: free pool
18: three point contest
21: game board day
22: 8 ball pool tournament
29: Chess tournament
30: Ping pong tournament

December

- 2: Knockout contest
5: Cards "45's"
7: fooseball tournament
9: basketball "21"
13: 9 ball pool tournament
14: free pool

All activities are free and held in the lobby of the Sports and Fitness building and run from 12-1p.m.

The lobby of the Sports and Fitness center and the gym are open from 10 a.m.-1p.m. Monday-Friday for student use.

Weekly Sports Trivia

1.) Who was the first quarterback to pass for at least 5,000 yards in a season in the NFL?

2.) Which NFL team lost 26 consecutive games in a two-year span?

3.) The New York Yankees won three of the last four championships in the final years of the century of the 1900s. Who won the other one?

4.) Who was the first athlete featured on the cover of Sports Illustrated?

5.) When did major league umpires first wear chest protectors?

- Answers
1.) Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino, who passed for 5,084 yards in 1984.
2.) The Tampa Bay Buccaneers, during the 1976 and 1977 seasons
3.) The Florida Marlins, in 1997.
4.) Eddie Mathews, in 1954, while with the Milwaukee Braves.
5.) In 1885.

Photo Essay

Haverhill campus hosts College Fair



The NECC Knight gives a nice warm hug to NECC student Elliot Wete.



The Sistine Chapel of Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream.



Students inspect the popcorn machine.



At the event, college clubs recruit new members.



All photos by Ryan McAskill